

REMARKS

Claims 1-12, 14 and 16-26 are pending and subject to restriction as set forth in the December 5, 2005 Office Action.

Applicant provisionally elects, with traverse, the claims of Group I (claims 1-12, 14 and 16-20) for prosecution, and requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the requirement for the reasons presented below. Election is made without admission, and without prejudice to Applicant's right to file one or more divisional applications on, or otherwise prosecute, the subject matter of the non-elected claims.

The Examiner has divided the claims into the six groups set forth below:

Group I: Claims 1-12, 14 and 16-20, class 705, subclass 36 (claims 13 and 15 were previously cancelled);

Group II: Claim 21, class 705, subclass 37;

Group III: Claim 22, class 705, subclass 35;

Group IV: Claim 23, class 705, subclass 36;

Group V: Claim 24, class 705, subclass 36;

Group VI: Claim 25, class 705, subclass 36;

Group VII: Claim 26, , class 705, subclass 36.

We disagree with the fundamental need and premises for restriction.

Independent claims 1 and 14 in Group I relate to evaluating trading interests, and so does claim 21 in Group II (a method for electronically evaluating offerings of interests) and claim 22 in Group III (a method for evaluating interests). Thus, claims 1, 14, 21 and 22 relate to the same subject matter and should be searched and examined together, rather than piecemeal.

Independent claim 12 in Group I relates to trading interests, and so do independent claims 24, 25 and 26 in Groups V- VII (all for a computer system for trading short term interests).

Thus, claims 12, 24, 25 and 26 should also be searched and examined together, rather than piecemeal.

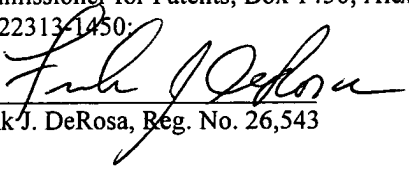
Also, the claims of Groups I and IV-VII all fall into a single class and subclass (705/36), which shows that these inventions are closely related and should be examined in

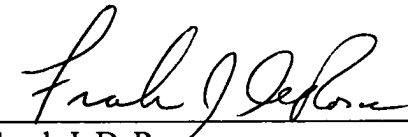
the same application. At least with respect to these claims, the Examiner has not demonstrated that searching these claims, all classified in the same class and subclass, would present an undue burden.

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement are respectfully requested, as well as examination on the merits of all pending claims.

Dated: 12/27/05

I hereby certify that the correspondence attached herewith is being transmitted by first class mail to the Commissioner for Patents, Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.


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